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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 1, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- The connector 50 comprises an intermediate board 51 and a guide ~~flame frame~~ 52 for supporting the intermediate board 51. As shown in Fig. 6, a plurality of connection portions 53 (connection pads) are arranged laterally along upper and lower edges of the intermediate board 51. Circuit traces (not shown) are provided in the inner layer of the intermediate board 51 and connected to the connection portions 53. A thin-plate-like shield 54 is provided on substantially whole area between the upper and lower contact portions 53 to shield the circuit traces in the inner layer of the intermediate board 51. The shield 54 is connected to some of the contact portions 53. An engagement hole 55 is provided in the center of the intermediate board 51 to engage a projection 60 (described below) provided in the guide ~~flame frame~~ 52.

The guide ~~flame frame~~ 52 comprises a substantially plate-like support portion 56 for supporting the intermediate board 51 and a pair of columns which are integrally provided with the support portion 56 at ends in the lateral direction of the support portion 56. --

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 2, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- The guide portion 58 has a guide surface 59, a flat surface extending in the plugging direction of the mating connector 70 outside the area ~~is in~~ which the contact portions ~~of the~~ ~~intermediate board 51~~ are arranged ~~of the intermediate board 51~~.

The flat surface of the guide surface 59 extends in substantially

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whole range of the area projecting from the edge of the intermediate board 51 in the plugging direction. The guide portion 58 guides the mating connector 70 with the guide surface 59 guiding a guided surface 74 (described below) of the mating connector 70.

(The Mating Connector 70)

The mating connector 70 comprises a housing 71, an accommodation cavity 72 provided in the housing 71 for receiving the upper edge of the intermediate board 51 in which the contact portions 53 are arranged, and a pair of hole-like guided portions 73 which are provided in the housing 71 and guided by the guide portions 58 of the guide flame frame 52 when the connector 70 is connected to the connector 50. A plurality of resilient contact portions of terminals (not shown) are provided in the accommodation cavity 72 at positions corresponding to those of the contact portions 53 of the intermediate board 51 so that resilient contact portions are brought into resilient contact with the contact portions 53 when the connector 70 is connected to the connector 50. The terminals extend outwardly from the opposite side of an opening of the accommodating cavity 72. The terminals have a plurality of contact portions on the opposite side which are connected by soldering to corresponding circuit traces of a circuit board (not shown) provided in a direction perpendicular the intermediate board 51.

Each of the guided portion portions 73 has the guided surface 74 which faces to the guide surface 59 closely 59 when the connector 70 is connected to the connector 50 (Figs. 6 and 7).

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Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 7, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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-- Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of two connectors according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. Figs. 2(A) and 2(B) are enlarged sectional views of a guide portion and a guided portion of the two connectors of Fig. 1, wherein Fig. 2(A) shows a plugging condition between the two connectors and Fig. 2(B) shows a condition in the middle of removal of one connector from the other.

Fig. Figs. 3(A) and 3(B) are perspective views showing another embodiment of the present invention, wherein Fig. 3(A) shows two guide portions and Fig. 3(B) shows a modification of one of the guide portions of Fig. 3(A).

Fig. Figs. 4(A) and 4(B) are enlarged sectional views of the guide portion and a guided portion of two connectors according to another embodiment, wherein Fig. 4(A) shows a plugging condition between the two connectors and Fig. 4(B) shows a condition in the middle of removal of one connector from the other.

Fig. Figs. 5(A) and 5(B) are enlarged sectional views of a guide portion and a guided portion of two connectors according to still another embodiment, wherein Fig. 5(A) shows a plugging condition between the two connectors and Fig. 5(B) shows a condition in the middle of removal of one connector from the other.

Fig. 6 is a schematic illustration of a conventional connector.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged sectional view of guide and guided portions of the connector of Fig. 6. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The intermediate connector 20 comprises an intermediate board 21 and a guide flame frame 30 for holding the intermediate board

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21. The intermediate board 21 is similar to the conventional one shown in Fig. 6 and comprises a plurality of contact portions 21A (contact pads) arranged in two rows along the upper and lower edges of both sides of the board and an inner layer having signal circuits (not shown) connected to the corresponding contact portions 21A. Also, the intermediate board 21 comprises a shield 21B, as an external layer, to cover the signal circuits. The shield 21B is electrically connected to some of the contact portions 21A. A pair of cut-off grooves 21C are provided in the center in the longitudinal direction (lateral direction in Fig. 1) of the intermediate board for absorbing a clearance between the intermediate board and the guide flame frame 30 by a guide (not shown) of the connector 40 and for positioning the contact portions 21A. The intermediate board 21 further comprises a supported portion 21D projecting outwardly in the longitudinal direction thereof from the arrangement area of the contact portions 21A. The intermediate board 21 is supported by the guide flame frame 30 at the supported portion 21D. --

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 9, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

-- The guide flame frame 30 comprises a pair of columns 31 provided at sides in the longitudinal direction of the intermediate board 21 and extending vertically, and a substantially plate-like support portion 32 linking the middle sections of the columns 31. The guide flame frame 30 has supporting surfaces extending in parallel to the sheet of the drawing and supporting the intermediate board 21. A resilient claw 33 is provided at one of joint areas between the support portion 32 and the columns 31 for engaging the supported portion 21D, thus positioning the intermediate board 21. Supporting

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claws 35 are provided on the opposite side of the resilient claw 33 for holding the intermediate board 21 placed at a predetermined position by the resilient claw 33 and supported by the support portion 32.

The intermediate board 21, and the support portion 32 and the supporting claws 35 of the guide flame frame 30 may be identical with conventional ones.

The columns 31 of the guide flame frame 30 have a pair of guide portions 36 projecting outside the range of the supported portion 21D in the vertical direction of the intermediate board 21. In the present invention, the guidance of the connector 40 by the guide portions 36 is unique. The pair of the guide portions 36 provided at the right and left columns 31 are made symmetric laterally.

In Fig. 2(A), the guide portion 36 has two flat guide surfaces 36A and 36B on the left side thereof and a relief recess 36C between the two guide surfaces 36A and 36B. The guide portion 36 has tapers 36D and 36E on the left and right tops thereof, and a flat face 36F under the taper 36E on the right side thereof. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 33, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment and various modifications are possible. For example, in Fig. 3(A), the right and left guide portions 36 are asymmetric each other with respect to the plane of the intermediate board 21 of the intermediate connector so as to prevent the connector 40 from being mis-plugged into the intermediate connector 20 in the right and left direction. In Fig. 3(A), the two guide portions 36 are provided with cut-off portions 36G, respectively, and

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substantially L-shaped in the top view. The two guide portions 36 are symmetric with respect to the right and left direction but asymmetric with respect to the plane of the intermediate board 21. Accordingly, since the connector 40 has the corresponding holes, the connector 40 cannot be mis-plugged into the intermediate connector 40. In this embodiment too, a taper 36H is provided at the top of the cut-off portion 36G to permit large inclination of the connector 40 upon gouging-type removal shown in ~~Fig.~~ Figs. 4(A) and 4(B). --